

814 Elite Meeting Notes
11/1/2023

In attendance:

Board: Mo, Greg, Angie, Brian, Abby, BJ, Ray

Coaches: Hannah, Trevor, Lee, Anita, Julie, Jorge, Maddie, Cheyenne, Heather, Eugene, Alyssa

1. Welcome - Handout Packets
 - a. Gannon schedule
 - b. Insurance/sanctioning/tournaments
 - c. Code of Conduct
 - d. Medical liability
 - e. Have birth certificate copies or have parents have theirs at all times in their car
2. Pass around sheets for jersey order and roster NEEDS
3. Discuss Practice Schedule - Winter Procedures
 - a. Skills needed to work on?
 - i. Defense not having enough time to work on (catcher availability, etc)
 - ii. **Softball IQ was low**
 1. Concerns with having enough of each position (True SS, 2nd base with bunts/etc)
 - iii. Team chemistry was not established, teams were new and didn't feel entirely comfortable with each other
 - iv. Dugout presence
 1. "I would not recruit you if I saw you this way in the dugout"
 2. Not having enough kids to play with low numbers
 - v. It's not always bad to have parents come to you and ask "what is going on?"
 - vi. We would have the back of the coaches for benching kids for inappropriate softball behavior
 - vii. Call out poor behavior right when it happens, nip it in the butt immediately
 - b. Addressing parent issues
 - i. Playing time issues
 1. Rephrase the question
 - a. "What can my daughter do to become a #1 or #2 so she can earn more playing time in the position she wants?"

2. At what age does the transition from parent communication to player communication occur?
 - a. Age of maturity, it can vary
 - b. High school the goal is to have the kid doing the communication
 - c. Utilize whatever communication platform you prefer!!
- c. Very little fundamentals
 - i. Need to break down different things
 1. Fielding
 2. Hitting
 - a. Casting/pulling out/bat drag/leaning/balance/dropping hands
 - b. Have them call balls/strikes in live tracking (for kids getting in box)
 - c. Understanding how to hit inside/outside pitches
 - d. Tagging
 - e. Passed balls
 - f. 1st & 3rd Situations (defense AND on offense)
 - g. Slapping
 - h. Working in 13 girls was difficult
 - i. Made it hard to find who's really the best
 - i. Concerns with a player who may not get to play
 - i. Make a decision what to do
 1. Tell the parent "right now, she is not top 3 at her position"
 2. Get a coach and work hard in the off season
 - j. Catching
 - i. Will there be a catching coach at the pitching lessons?
 1. Not really, looking for one to be there
 2. Mercyhurst girls, Anita, etc
 3. BOARD - Make a schedule for catching instructor
 - k. Pitch recognition
 - i. Anita has a few drills
 - ii. Have a plan
 - iii. Situational hitting
 - iv. Talk through hitting
 1. What are you watching?
 - a. Stare at the hip
 2. Who can identify the location of the pitch the earliest?
 3. HITTING MINDSET
 4. What is your pitch?

- a. Different counts, etc
 - 5. Pitching charts
 - 6. Batter having 2 conversations with on deck batter & in the hole after at bat
 - 7. Vision & Timing at the plate
 - a. Avoid guessing at pitches
 - l. Read the feedback of hitting balls off the tee or throwing the ball, the way the ball goes is going to tell you what you're doing right/wrong!!
 - m. Line up pitchers with hitting lessons
- 4. One on one interviews with each player after the fall season
 - a. Downside to Gannon is not a ton of hitting
 - i. Encourage players to be hitting on their own
 - b. Motivate your players to want to be great
 - i. Hitting lessons/pitching lessons/ etc.
 - ii. Who are the hitting coaches?
 - iii. What if they can't afford hitting coaches?
 - 1. Accept videos of hitting in the garage and teach them!
 - c. Parents with the kids if needed
 - i. Error on the side of having them with you
- 5. Development of younger girls
 - a. Developing pitchers and finding the solid few
 - b. We can't only coach during games, need to address issues when they happen
 - c. Process over outcome
 - d. Outwork those above you
 - e. "Define Hard work"
 - f. Watching softball live or on TV
 - g. Create mentorship with older girls
 - i. Big sister/little sister within the organization
- 6. Trophy hunting coach (or one who doesn't know the game)
 - a. Give them a role (ONLY 1)
 - b. All coaches can coach differently
- 7. How can we help the coaches learn and grow?
 - a. Feedback from other coaches
 - b. One forum for all the coaches to communicate
- 8. Open Forum Discussion
 - a. Feedback from Fall
 - b. Where do you need help?
 - c. What skills do your girls need to focus on?
 - d. What skills do you want to refine for coaching/running a practice?

9. Introductions of Coaches' Development Liaison
 - a. BJ Vaughn 814-392-8205
 - b. Outside resources for coaching development
10. Come early to Gannon to try on helmet and see bags if they are interested
11/12/2023
11. Championship Products
 - a. "Netflix for coaches"
 - b. Instagram is good too
12. Payment
 - a. Bank account exists
 - b. Stay diligent
 - c. Payments to be cashed soon
 - d. Make sure which kid and team it's from
 - e. Balance for each team?
 - i. Monthly
 - f. Don't hesitate to ask for reimbursement for things
 - g. Let Ray know about who sponsors are coming for
13. Tournament A, B, C?
 - a. Go to what is around you and a few that are a reach
 - b. Get your team out to be challenged
 - c. Pick the best local one for the parents/grandparents
14. Pitching starts Monday (M: Cambridge, W: Bomb Shelter)
 - a. Sign up genius
 - b. 4 pitching slots per hour (6-7-8)
 - c. Younger girls go earlier, older later